

**Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Committee Meeting (AISAC)
Thursday, September 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

- Barron Orr (U of A Cooperative Extension)
- Bill Werner (ADWR)
- Brian McGrew (ADA)
- Brian Moorhead (Salt River Project)
- Chantal O'Brien (AGFD)
- Cheryl Lombard (TNC)
- Cindy Coping (Cattle Growers)
- Dan Shein (ASP)
- Duane Shroufe, Co-Chair (AGFD)
- Donald Butler, Co-Chair (ADA)
- Doug Witte (ASLD)
- Ed Northam (Southwest Vegetation Management, for Cooperative Weed management)
- Fred Amator (AZ Crop Protection Assoc.)
- Gary Russell (USDA APHIS)
- Glenn Fahringer (Cave Creek; Landscape and Nursery Industry)
- Jeannette Fish (Maricopa County Farm Bureau)
- Jeffrey Myers (ADA)
- Joanne Roberts (ASP)
- John Brock (ASU)
- John Gerstenberger (PETsMart)
- Kai Umeda (U of A, Cooperative Extension)
- Kathryn Thomas (USGS)
- Larry Riley (AGFD)
- Marianne Meding (AGFD)
- Richard Brusca (ASDM)
- Tom Klabunde (TNF)

Roll Call of Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (Council) members and sign in.

Marianne Meding called the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council meeting to order at 1:03 pm at the Arizona State Parks Board Room located at 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Marianne introduced the Council Co-chairs; Director Duane Shroufe from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Director Donald Butler from the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

Marianne informed the council that Jeffrey Myers will be leaving on October 5 and his replacement will be Brian McGrew from the Department of Agriculture.

The 3rd Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (Council) meeting commenced with Co-Chair Duane Shroufe conducting roll call. Sixteen Council members were in attendance, constituting a quorum.

Welcome & Introductions

Co-Chair Duane Shroufe welcomed everyone and asked Council members and other attendees to introduce themselves and indicate who they represent. Marianne reported that there are three applications for Council membership that are still awaiting approval by the Governor's office, and hopefully there will be a response before the next Council meeting in October. The Governor's office will be emailing each council member and their designee the ethics training

schedule when it becomes available.

Duane and Marianne reviewed housekeeping rules and requested members of the public wishing to speak on a topic not listed on the agenda to fill out a speaker card if, as well as requested all attendees to initial the sign-in roster. The next meeting for the council will be held October 2 at 1:00 pm at the Department of Agriculture and will be chaired by Mr. Butler. Marianne asked the council to refer to the Governor's website for up-to-date meeting information and to contact Brian McGrew or her with any questions. Marianne briefly reviewed open meeting laws, reminding Council and work group members to respond to the sender only if you are replying back to an email. She also requested for individuals planning to teleconference on Council or work group meetings to let her, Brian, or work group leads know 24 hours prior to the meeting, and to please only use this option if absolutely necessary.

Approval of Minutes

Duane Shroufe asked for a motion to approve Council meeting minutes from August 7, 2007. Doug Witte offered the motion, seconded by Glen Fahringer. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Working Group reports (include timeline for milestones)

Doug Witte, Co-Lead of the Leadership & Coordination work group, gave a progress report and reviewed the five objectives and associated recommendations that were drafted to date. Even though regulatory authority for wildlife and plants rests with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Department of Agriculture, many other agencies and organizations have a vested interest in invasive species issues and as such, there is a need for coordination among all of these parties to implement a statewide approach to invasive species management. Much of the Council structure and function is detailed in Executive Order 2007-07; however, there are additional recommendations for consideration.

This council will be a permanent advisory board. It will be of appropriate size so effective decisions will be made and recommendations will be provided to the Governor. Members will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Council will initially consist of 21 appointed members; however, the Governor can appoint additional members. Only council members or their designees will have voting authority.

Doug gave a brief overview of the recommendations developed to date:

- There is a need for coordination with many state, federal, local organizations, stakeholders, and interested parties. One goal will be to develop a network of subject matter experts and advisors to create a communication pathway and to coordinate on invasive species issues. Non-council members are invited to attend and participate at all meetings.
- It is recommended that if a council member is no longer able to serve on the

council, a new member shall be appointed within six months.

- Council members will serve as liaisons between the Council and the entities they represent.
- Council meetings shall meet no less than quarterly or more frequently if needed.
- Leadership & Coordination, Research and Information Management, Anticipation & Outreach, Control & Management, and Funding work groups will stand for life of the management plan, and participation on work groups will be open to interested parties.
- Work Group charter goals and objectives will have a two year performance review with a five year overall plan assessment and update as deemed necessary.
- State agencies need to recognize the need to commit resources in the form of funding and staffing towards invasive species issues and also to be leaders in coordinating and implementing on-the-ground work.
- Increase agency resources and funding to current positions and create new positions.
- Agencies already having dedicated invasive species staff and funding will need increased resources and additional positions to adequately address invasive species issues in upcoming years.
- Plan and set priorities for funding, resources, and positions. Governor's Office and agency leadership shall develop a five year operating budget and a detailed needs assessment.
- Establish and IS response fund to address emergencies.
- Establish new community-based block grant programs and broaden existing competitive ones.
- Review management plans from other states and establish and maintain a consistent working relationship with neighboring states and Mexico. This interaction is essential for anticipation, prevention, and response where invasive species pose a threat to Arizona.
- Identify key points of contacts within other agencies, states and countries, and create a directory with all pertinent information.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor events relating to invasive species.
- The Council shall take an active roll in a Center for Invasive Species through media outreach and public relations.

- The Council will continue to identify stakeholders and interested parties and seek participation at any council meetings.

An Implementation Plan has not yet been developed.

Duane asked for any comments. Marianne asked the Council whether management plan drafts should be posted on the website at this point in time and the Council was unanimous in deciding hold off posting drafts until work groups have completed a final draft that will then be made available to the Public. Glen Fahringer asked if council members could be sent working drafts of the management plan. Marianne will forward any drafts to the members. Doug indicated that the Leadership and Coordination work group should have a final draft completed for Council review by the October 2 Council meeting.

Kai Umeda updated Council on the Research & Information Management work group progress to date. He mentioned his group has not met as frequently as the Leadership and Coordination work group and as a result, has not gotten as far along on the charter objectives. The group is currently working on a process prioritizing research needs. Kai indicated that a 1-10 rating scale will likely be recommended to prioritize a list of invasive species. The prioritization process will assess harmful impacts of specific invasive species using the following criteria: economic impact, ecological impact, human health impact, critical research needs and develop sub categories that will be assessed for each criterion. The group has also identified potential funding sources for financing a Center for Invasive species, and also several granting opportunities that can be incorporated when developing a grants program to fund research, monitoring and management efforts. The group is still researching additional funding and granting opportunities. The work group has also spent time trying to vision a Center for Invasive Species; alternative structures, housing, collating information, tracking information, and utilization of research experts. The Research and Information Management work group is scheduled to meet September 13, 20 and 27 to address the remaining components of the charter and provide a final draft of the Research and Information Management plan for Council review by the October 2nd Council meeting.

Duane Shroufe opened the floor for comments and questions. He also thanked both Doug and Kai on the progress being made in the working groups. He thanked the council and visions the council will have success at the end. Duane mentioned to the council that if anyone needed help to please contact Marianne or Brian. Doug gave Marianne a big thanks for her help in developing the Leadership & Coordination management plan draft.

Review and discuss a template Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council information letter for Council members to disseminate to interested parties.

Duane asked the Council to review a draft letter that Council members can send to interested parties to inform them about the Council and invite attendance and participation at future Council meetings. Marianne requested guidance regarding what letterhead should be used and was directed to discuss the issue with Lori Faith from the Governor's Office. Duane asked for comments or suggestions regarding the letter contents. Richard Brusca requested the URL address for the Governor's website be added to the letter. Additional edits and additions were

suggested by Council members, these edits were given to Marianne to incorporate into the letter. Duane and Don will sign the final draft which will then be turned into PDF format and distributed to Council members for use at their discretion. Marianne requested Council members let her know who the letter has been sent to so she can keep a record of correspondence (cc Marianne on correspondence).

John Brock advised Council members of an opportunity to participate at a national level at the National Weed Awareness Week which will be held at the end of February in Washington DC. John mentioned that funding is usually a huge hindrance. It does cost \$1500 but hotel and other costs could be shared among attendees.

Duane asked for any more comments regarding the draft letter for correspondence with interested parties, none were forthcoming, and Duane asked for a motion to approve the draft letter with the suggested edits. John Brock offered the motion, which was seconded by Joanne Roberts. The motion was passed unanimously to approve the draft letter for Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council correspondence with interested parties.

PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Kathryn Thomas from USGS

Duane introduced the next presenter: Dr. Kathryn Thomas from the US Geological Survey. Dr. Thomas gave a brief presentation on the Southwest Exotic Mapping Program (SWEMP) and the Southwest Exotic Information Clearinghouse (SWEPIC) Regional Database. SWEMP is a nine year adventure that allows agencies to share data. It is a cooperative effort between US Geological Survey, National Park Service, and Northern Arizona University. SWEMP is a database on non-native invasive species plant distributions for Arizona and adjacent southwest areas and serves as a clearing house/database where people can search for information on southwestern invasive weeds and their distribution.

PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Barron Orr

Duane introduced the next presenter: Dr. Barron Orr from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. Dr. Orr gave a PowerPoint presentation on geospatial technology and its potential users in the state of Arizona. He discussed the business strategy for the National Geospatial Technology Extension Network (NGTEN). Dr. Orr identified goals including the following:

- develop a common database
- integrated datasets
- collaboration among organizations to minimize costs and increase sharing

Dr. Orr discussed how volunteers such as the Desert Museum Invaders gather information which is then used to create maps which can in turn be used for on the ground management to go out and remove the invasive plants. He discussed the importance of two-way knowledge and the importance of outreach, and the need to create an army of data collectors.

Dr. Orr also indicated that there are many different types of tools and equipment along with software options out there for practical use. He gave an example involving Google Earth and demonstrated the applicability and ease with which such a tool can be used.

Currently, Dr. Orr and other colleagues are working on a decision support system for bufflegrass in Pima County. He mentioned to the council that this is their big chance at working towards development of a comprehensive design for statewide data management, and the need to gain as much support as possible in the form of funding make this happen.

Duane thanked Dr. Orr and Dr. Thomas for their presentations.

Call to the Public

Duane opened the floor to the public to see if there were issues or concerns to be discussed with Council. Marianne stated that there were no blue sheets.

Future Agenda Items

The council decided to not have any presentations at the October 2nd meeting to allow more time for the working groups to present their recommendations to the Council for review and discussion. The following agenda items were identified at previous meetings and may be considered for addition to future meeting agendas:

- Working group updates.
- Presentation from Health Services (Elisabeth Lawaczeck): linkages between invasive species and human health.
- Presentation from Ed Northam: Overview of Weed Management Plans.
- Presentation from Bruce Eilerts: cactus moths...an invasive species coming our way.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.